

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of

Applicant(s) : Er-Xuan Ping  
Serial No. : 10/732,962  
Filed : December 11, 2003  
Title : EVEN NUCLEATION BETWEEN SILICON AND OXIDE SURFACES FOR  
THIN SILICON NITRIDE FILM GROWTH  
Docket : MIO 0088 V3/40509.280  
Art Unit : N/A

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING  
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal  
Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box  
1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 17, 2004.

  
William A. Jividen

Reg. No. 42,695

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97, AND 1.98

Applicant submits herewith patents, publications, and other information of which he is aware, which he believes may be material, as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b), to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR §1.56(a). While the information referred to in this Information Disclosure Statement may be material pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56(b), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not intended to, pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97(h), constitute an admission that any patent, publication, or other information referred to is, or is considered to be, material to the patentability of this invention. No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103, and Applicant reserves the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish otherwise. Further, pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97(g), the filing of this Statement should not be construed as a statement that a search has been made or that no other material information exists.

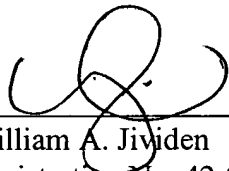
Serial No. 10/732,962  
Docket MIO 0088 V3/40509.280

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR §1.97(b) because it is believed to be filed before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits.

The above application is a division of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/139,987 filed May 7, 2002. Pursuant to §1.98(d), copies of those items cited by or submitted to the Office in the prior application are not being submitted.

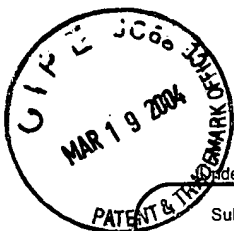
The Office has waived the requirement pursuant to 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2)(i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each U.S. patent application publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003 and for all international applications that have entered the national stage under 35 USC § 371 after June 30, 2003. Therefore, no copies of each cited U.S. patent and each cited U.S. patent application publication are enclosed, but the cited U.S. patents and the cited U.S. patent application publications are listed on PTO/SB/08A.

Respectfully submitted,  
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# INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

## Complete if Known

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|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Application Number     | 10/732,962            |
| Filing Date            | December 11, 2003     |
| First Named Inventor   | Er-Xuan Ping          |
| Art Unit               |                       |
| Examiner Name          |                       |
| Attorney Docket Number | MIO 0088 V3/40509.280 |

Sheet 1 of 1

## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner<br>Initials* | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number                          | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where<br>Relevant Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
|                       |                          | Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known) |                                |  |   |
|                       |                          | US- 5,445,999                            | 08/29/1995                     | Thakur et al.                                      |   |
|                       |                          | US- 5,952,692                            | 09/14/1999                     | Nakazato et al.                                    |   |
|                       |                          | US- 6,017,791                            | 01/25/2000                     | Wang et al.  |   |
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|                       |                          | US- 6,235,571 B1                         | 05/22/2001                     | Doan   |   |
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|                       |                          | US-                                      |                                |  |   |

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner<br>Initials* | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document   | Publication<br>Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant Passages<br>Or Relevant Figures Appear | T <sup>6</sup> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|----------------|
|                       |                          | Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) |                                   |  |   |                |
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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